

Final workshop of project “Statistics and Data for Measuring Illicit Financial Flows in the Asia-Pacific Region”

Lessons learned and way forward for the Asia-Pacific region

7-8 December 2022, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Overview

Purpose and expected outcomes

Purpose: The workshop is organized to:

- Discuss results of pilot studies to measure illicit financial flows (IFFs) which have been carried out by six countries in Asia-Pacific during 2021-2022 under a United Nations Development Account-funded project
- Share experiences, challenges, and guidance for estimating IFFs
- Ensure efforts to measure IFFs are sustained in the project countries beyond the project

Expected outcomes: By the end of the workshop, participants:

- Are aware of what other project countries have done to estimate IFFs and able to compare their efforts, challenges, and results with the experiences in their own country
- Understand the emerging measurement guidance on crime related and commercial IFFs and can explain how they have been applied to the pilot studies
- Are aware of the interconnections of crime and commercial IFFs
- Have identified priority actions for future efforts on measuring IFFs in their country, including for continued technical work and for increased visibility among policy makers

Participants

Participants from each project country (Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam); these will include country focal points and other main implementers.

Resource persons from ESCAP, UNODC and UNCTAD, as well as national project consultants.

Time and venue

Date and time: 7-8 December 2022, 09:00-17:00h

Venue: UN Conference Centre, Meeting Room G, Bangkok, Thailand

Language

The meeting will be conducted in English, with interpretation available for selected sessions:

English <> Russian

English <> Vietnamese

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 7 December				
Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
Session 1: Setting the scene (Moderator: Mr. Alick Mjuma Nyasulu, ESCAP)				
09:00 - 09:15	Opening Speaker 1 - Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP Speaker 2 - Mr. Inshik Sim, UNODC Speaker 3 - Mr. Bojan Nastav, UNCTAD	Welcome	Each of the co-organizing organizations delivers a 5min opening statement.	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
09:15 - 10:00	Introductions and expectations	Introductions and ice-breaker	Each participant will introduce their neighbour (their role in the project and expectations to the workshop); all will be given a few minutes to interview their neighbour in preparation.	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee Break			
Session 2: Pilot study results on Illicit Financial Flows from Drug Trafficking – Bangladesh and Maldives (Moderator: Mr. Shah Mohammad Naheean, UNODC ROSA)				
<i>Session objective: Participants are aware of what other project countries have done to estimate IFFs and able to compare their efforts, challenges, and results with the experiences presented. Participants able to assess methods and make recommendations and provide feedback on guidelines</i>				
10:20 - 11:10	Process, challenges, and results of pilot studies in Bangladesh and Maldives	Present results and country experiences	Plenary presentations by representatives from Bangladesh and Maldives, followed by Q&A	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 7 December				
Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
11:10 - 12:00	Breakout group discussion	Discussion by participants on what was presented. Highlights from discussion to be presented at plenary	Discuss experience in own country Guided discussion with worksheet to be provided Report to plenary in next session on the experience Prepare recommendations/comments/questions/queries/feedback to Methodological guidelines based on discussion	In-person, no broadcast
12:00 - 12:20	Highlights from group discussions presented in plenary	Reflections from participants on results and challenges identified; what went well, what can be improved	Issues identified in breakout sessions will be presented in plenary by spokesperson from each group. To be followed by moderated discussion	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
12:20 - 13:30	Lunch			
Session 3: Pilot study results on human trafficking and wildlife trafficking – Nepal and Viet Nam (Moderator: Ms. Diana Camerini, UNODC) <i>Session objective: Participants are aware of what other project countries have done to estimate IFFs and able to compare their efforts, challenges, and results with the experiences</i>				
13:30 - 14:20	Process, challenges, and results of pilot studies in Nepal and Viet Nam	Present results and country experiences	Plenary presentations by representatives from Nepal and Viet Nam, followed by Q&A	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 7 December

Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
14:20 - 15:10	Breakout group discussion	Discussion by participants on what was presented. Highlights from discussion to be presented at plenary	Discuss experience in own country Guided discussion with worksheet to be provided Report to plenary in next session on the experience Prepare recommendations/comments/questions/queries/feedback to Methodological guidelines based on discussion	In-person, no broadcast
15:10 - 15:30	Highlights from group discussions	Reflections on results and challenges identified; what went well, what can be improved.	Issues identified in breakout sessions will be presented in plenary by identified spokesperson from each group. To be followed by moderated discussion	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
15:30 - 15:50	Coffee Break			
<p>Session 4: Methods – crime-related IFFs (Moderator: Mr. David Ravaux UNODC) <i>Session objective: Participants understand the emerging measurement guidance on crime related IFFs and can explain how they have been applied to the pilot studies, and critically assess the methods and provide constructive commentary</i></p>				
15:50 - 16:40	Methods for crime related IFFs	UNODC provides a recap of methodology used in estimation of crime related IFFs. Participants discuss methodology and provide feedback from group discussions	UNODC discusses methodology, and addresses feedback given by participants from group discussions	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
16:40 - 17:00	Key takeaways of the day	Reflection on the first day	Moderated discussion	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast

DAY 2 – Thursday, 8 December				
Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
09:00 - 09:30	Recap of Day 1.	Discuss highlights from Day 1 of workshop	Moderated with each participant giving one highlight from Day 1	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
Session 5: Methods - tax and commercial-related IFFs (Moderators: Ms. Amandine Rushenguziminega and Mr. Bojan Nastav, UNCTAD) <i>Session objective: Participants understand the emerging measurement guidance on tax and commercial related IFFs and can explain how they have been applied to the pilot studies.</i>				
09:30 - 10:00	Description of methods for measuring tax and commercial- related IFFs, including discussion on methods based on experience from pilot conducted in Africa	Methodological guidelines are presented	UNCTAD provides a recap of methods used in estimation of tax and commercial IFFs, and discuss results from pilot study in Africa	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee Break			
Session 6: Pilot study results – Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (Moderator: Ms. Anastasia Maga, ESCAP) <i>Session objective: Participants are aware of what other project countries have done to estimate IFFs and able to compare their efforts, challenges, and results with the experiences presented. Participants able to assess methods and make recommendations and provide feedback on guidelines</i>				
10:20 - 11:00	Process, challenges, and results of pilot studies in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan	Present results and country experiences	Plenary presentations by representatives from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, followed by Q&A	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
11:00 - 12:00	Breakout group discussion	Discussion by participants on what was presented. Highlights from discussion to be presented at plenary	Discuss experience in own country Report to plenary in next session on the experience Prepare recommendations/comments/questions/queries/feedback to Methodological guidelines based on discussion	In-person, no broadcast

DAY 2 – Thursday, 8 December				
Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
12:00 - 12:20	Highlights from group discussions presented in plenary	Reflections from participants on results and challenges identified; what went well, what can be improved	Issues identified in breakout sessions will be presented in plenary by identified spokesperson from each group. To be followed by moderated discussion	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
12:20 - 13:30	Lunch			
Session 7: Methods - tax and commercial-related IFFs (Moderators: Ms. Amandine Rushenguziminega and Mr. Bojan Nastav, UNCTAD) <i>Session objective: Participants understand the emerging measurement guidance on tax and commercial related IFFs and can explain how they have been applied to the pilot studies.</i>				
13:30 - 14:00	Guidelines for measuring tax and commercial-related IFFs (continued): Feedback and discussion	Participants discuss methodology and provide feedback from group discussions.	UNCTAD addresses feedback given by participants from group discussions	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast

DAY 2 – Thursday, 8 December

Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
<p>Session 8: Way forward for the Asia-Pacific Region – (Moderator: Mr. Alick Nyasulu, ESCAP) <i>Session objectives: Participants (a) are aware of the interconnections of crime and commercial IFFs; and (b) have identified priority actions for future efforts on measuring IFFs in their country, including for continued technical work and for increased visibility among policy makers</i></p>				
14:00 - 14:30	Panel discussion on sustaining the measurement of IFFs	<p>This session will feature discussions on the key aspects for continuing measurement in the region, namely:</p> <p>Connections between crime-related and commercial IFFs to be discussed by UNCTAD/UNODC</p> <p>Outputs and deliverables of pilot project and how these could assist countries in continued measurement by ESCAP-SD</p> <p>Linking measurement of IFFs to policy by ESCAP-MPFD</p>	Each panellist will discuss for 6 minutes on their respective area, and will take questions	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast

DAY 2 – Thursday, 8 December

Time	Session	Objective	Session details	Modality
14:30 - 15:30	Breakout discussions in country groups (and one group for international organizations)	<p>Objective: To identify actions that ensure measurement and reporting of IFFs beyond the pilot.</p> <p>The session will focus on countries identifying concrete actions and their plans to integrate IFF in their routine work: what coordination and conversations need to happen in their respective countries, actions that need to be taken and highlight some opportunities and address challenges to sustain IFF measurement.</p>	<p>Discuss and report to plenary in next session</p> <p>This session will take the form of a round table discussion where each country will share insights and actions.</p>	In-person, no broadcast
15:30 - 15:50	Coffee Break			
15:50 - 16:30	Highlights from discussion on sustaining IFF measurement	Participants outline the way forward for their respective countries on sustaining IFF measurement	Spokesperson from each country will present to plenary on what was discussed in breakout sessions. To be followed by moderated discussion	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast
Section 9: Closing session - (Moderator: Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP)				
16:30 - 17:00	Workshop evaluation and closing remarks	Evaluation of workshop and closing of workshop	Evaluation form to be disseminated Closing remarks to be given	Hybrid with Zoom broadcast